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ined were caught in the city by the regular force of rat catchers since the bonus for rats was discontinued some weeks ago. During the week there were 7 rejections among the Asiatic steerage passengers from all causes and 23 aliens were recommended for rejection for trachoma.

*Immigrants recommended for rejection.*

Fifteen immigrants per steamship *Hongkong Maru* for San Francisco, were recommended, October 30, for rejection on account of trachoma.

CUBA.

*Report from Habana.*

Assistant Surgeon Trotter reports, December 2, as follows for the week ended November 28, 1903:

Number of vessels inspected and issued bills of health.....	22
Crew of outgoing vessels inspected.....	652
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected.....	240
Pieces of freight inspected.....	60

*Mortuary report of Habana for the week ended November 28, 1903.*

Disease.	Number of deaths.
Tuberculosis.....	19
Pneumonia.....	3
Bronchitis.....	4
Grippe.....	1
Meningitis.....	5
Scarlet fever.....	7
Cancer.....	3

Total deaths from all causes, 99.

*Mortality in Habana and other cities—Scarlet fever in Habana.*

Chargé d'Affaires Sleeper reports, November 26, as follows:

The total mortality in the district of Habana for the month of September, 1903, has been 404, 59 less than the preceding month and precisely the same number as in the corresponding period of 1902. The daily average mortality has been 13.46, giving an annual death rate of 18.72 per thousand of population and relatively the same as that of the month of September, 1902.

Infant mortality and diseases of the respiratory system have been on the decrease, while deaths from general causes have slightly increased. There have been 675 births in Habana during the month, which after subtracting the number of deaths gives an increase of 269 to the population of the city.

No cases of smallpox or yellow fever have originated on the island during the month, although a case of the latter was imported from Mexico. A case of varioloid arrived on board a steamer from Trujillo, Honduras, and is still under treatment.

The general health of the island has been excellent, especially for September, the most likely month here for the propagation of epi-

demics. Camagey (Puerto Principe) was the healthiest town during the month with only 20 deaths, or at the rate of 9.48 per thousand of population, while Santiago de Cuba, which not long ago was the unhealthiest city in this hemisphere, comes second with 157 deaths, equivalent to 12.81 per thousand. As far as could be ascertained the total number of deaths on the island during the month amounted to 1,641, or an annual death rate of 15.87 per thousand of population.

The only unpleasant feature of the report is its recognition that scarlatina, which has existed in Habana since the beginning of the year in a sporadic form, has acquired an epidemic character. In July there were 51 cases, in August 62, and in September 107, with 4, 5, and 6 deaths, respectively. This disease up to recent years was almost unknown in Cuba and the department of sanitation is of the opinion that this epidemic has been imported from the United States. Since the publication of the report the epidemic has become greatly extended and has assumed alarming proportions, there being at one time in this city more than 620 cases under treatment. The epidemic has been confined almost entirely to children under 15 years of age, and the deaths very few (26 in October and 35 up to date in November). The department of sanitation has taken the most stringent measures to combat the epidemic. Most of the schools have been closed; municipal ordinances have been issued forbidding children to congregate in the parks, theaters, and other public places; parents have been advised to keep their children as much at home as possible, and houses in which there were cases of scarlatina have been placed under quarantine and compelled to keep their doors and windows closed. The epidemic at the present moment seems to be on the decrease, although at this date there are still 566 cases under treatment. The rest of the island appears to be still free from scarlatina.

*Report from Matanzas—Sporadic diphtheria.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nunez reports, December 1, as follows:

Week ended November 28, 1903. Four bills of health were issued to vessels leaving for ports in the United States, all in good sanitary condition.

One case of diphtheria, with a fatal termination, was reported during the past week. The premises were subjected to the usual disinfection immediately afterwards. It is to be noted, as will be seen by my previous reports, that sporadic cases of this disease often appear in different sections of this city without there being any possible communication between them, since they are strictly isolated in every instance. Their occurrence, in my opinion, is due to the fact that among certain classes of people live stock of fowls is generally kept in their yards during the whole year. In these animals the Klebs-Löffler bacillus is known to thrive, thus furnishing the agent for the contagium. The attention of the local health authorities has been called to the subject, and it is probable that some measures will be taken in the near future to do away with this nuisance, the suppression of which will evidently tend to improve in every respect the sanitary condition of dwellings as has been accomplished in some other cities of this island.